

**WOPWA Board of Directors Meeting
MINUTES
June 25th, 2016
Home of Bob Maloney and Bonnie Hunt**

**FINAL - approved at 8/29/16 board meeting
(last modified 7/30/2016)**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by President Bob Maloney.

Board Members Present: Bob Maloney, President; Kevin Frank, Vice President; Will Stratton, Treasurer; Dolores Hopper, Secretary; Galen Beach, Roger Uhler, Bruce Falby, Margie Bogdanow

Other WOPWA Members Present: Michael Bogdanow, Peter Levin, Anne Knight, Lois Stratton, Joan Vicinus, Nancy Voorhis

Board Members Not Present: Judy Ruhm, Marty Hirsch, Janet Cocchiaro, Will Brown, Kathy Weymouth, Susan Levin

Board Meeting Minutes:

Review of the minutes from the last Board meeting – August 22th, 2015. Minutes were approved as submitted.

Bob welcomed everyone.

Treasurer's Report & Dues Collection – Will Stratton

Will is stepping down as Treasurer. He was thanked by everyone for his many years of service.

This was a record year with **46** members that paid dues for a total of **\$1795**.

Expenses totaled **\$1821**, which is in excess of our revenues by **\$26**.

Expenses included \$600 in donations, \$300 for brochures and \$250 for updates to the web.

There were some non-recurring expenses for envelopes, 2 years for web fees and maintenance on the motor.

Our closing balance as of June 25th, 2016 is **\$ (waiting to hear from Will)**.

There were no questions regarding the Treasurer's report, it was unanimously approved.

It was suggested that we consider whether or not we should continue donating money to other organizations since we are supporting them with our work. In addition, many WOPWA members donate personally to these organizations. We donate to the Historical Society in lieu of space rental and to Conservation Trust who holds our money so Bob suggested he would get together with a couple of board members to sort out what organizations we donate to and what makes sense. The concept and recommendations would then be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Membership Committee – Lois Stratton

Lois is stepping down as chairperson but is willing to stay on the committee. She was thanked for her years of service. Anne Knight offered to take over as chair and as such will be a member of the Board. The Committee members will Lois Stratton, Joan Vicinus and Nancy Voohris.

On 5/4/16 and 6/16/16, Lois distributed 84 brochures around town including the Post Office, Squam Lakes Market Place, White Oak Motel, SLA, Science Center, Squam Boat Livery, Yankee Trail Motel, Peabody and Smith Realty, Golden Pond Store, Walter's Basin, the Library, the boat put-in, and Squam Lakes Inn. It was suggested that we also put some at the dump.

A list of WOPWA members is on the web site – Nancy will mail the list to the Board Members. The question was raised as to whether we should mail brochures to the watershed homeowners but Nancy says that mass mailings do not seem to work. It was decided that when Bob M. sends out a reminder for the Annual Meeting, he will also remind members that dues is owed for the upcoming year (fiscal year is July 1st to June 30th). Nancy will have membership forms at the meeting. Bob will also work with Kevin F. to get an article about the meeting published in the Plymouth newspaper.

Nancy suggested that we take the board members names off the brochures so they do not outdate. If people want to know who board members are, they can go to the web site (**BOB – not sure what was decided**).

Much discussion revolved around whether or not we need new board members but as we realize that there is turnover, we do need new members to replace those that leave and get others involved.

It was suggested and decided that in addition to having membership options on the brochures, we add an option to donate to WOPWA without membership. Bob suggested we also put a donation box at the WOP boat put-in. If we ask for donations, Roger stated it would be helpful to be specific about what the money would be used for e.g. to monitor water quality.

Nancy will update the brochures taking off the names of board members, offering an option to donate and perhaps utilizing different photographs as 2 of them are not of good quality whereas the loon photo is very good.

There was discussion about how to get information about WOP to others. A Facebook page or a Google Group may be helpful. After discussion, Margie agreed to work on the Google Group option and whenever donations are mentioned, an email address be asked for to keep those people updated on various issues. People can always unsubscribe if they do not want the emails.

Nancy requested that “Database updates” be removed as a standing item on the agenda – there are just 2 lists – members and WOP watershed homeowners.

Water Quality Update

Galen reported that the water testing went very well due to the fact that we now have use of a powered boat thanks to the Irelands. A biologist from DES – VLAP did accompany the group and has given supplies to WOPWA for testing. The conductivity has gotten worse around the East Holderness Road and the dump test sites. It was suggested that we work with the town to perhaps have them decrease the use of salt in those areas. The full report is on the web site. The group (5 people – Galen will forward the list to Bob) is now looking at ways to reduce costs of the testing by timing of the stations to eliminate redundancy.

At this time, it is unknown if the lowering of the dam had any effect on the water quality.

Weed Watchers – Margie and Mike Bogdanow

There is not a committee as it is everyone’s responsibility to weed watch. Knowledge of the various weeks is very important and SLA is trying to educate others through workshops. They are also going out to other ponds and once their schedule is known, it will be shared. If people have questions about a particular weed, SLA will analyze it.

Annual Meeting Food Committee

Kathy Weymouth was unable to attend the meeting but reported to Bob that she will continue to be responsible for the food but will need help.

The Annual Meeting has been scheduled for July 16th at the Historical Society. There is no cost for renting the space since we give a yearly donation to them.

Lois agreed to call others to see if anyone is interested in setting up an Arts and Crafts area at the meeting.

Mary H. Perry Conservation Fund – Bob Maloney

The current balance is \$15,856 – we have had a 2½ to 3% return on investment. We will continue to move towards the goal of \$25,000. It is important to create an awareness of this project. Janet Cocchiaro is planning a barn dance on August 5th to help raise money for this fund. Bob will work on getting something published in the paper.

Dam Update

Dam repairs were completed satisfactorily last fall. Kevin F. and Bob M. met with Mike Capone, Town Administrator and Kevin Coburn, DPW. Kevin has been monitoring the level of the dam daily and has been surprised at how quickly it changes. He is committed to keeping the level constant and to not let out the dam without first notifying WOPWA. He reported that someone had been taking out the 1st and 2nd dam boards presumably to get rid of the suckers. Kevin is concerned about erosion of the culvert if the water is let out too quickly. He also raised the level very slowly which made it difficult for some homeowners to get their floats out of the cove but all is back to normal levels. Barry Eastman resigned from his role as person responsible for the dam however he still has the tool that controls the dam. Bob will look into whether or not it is necessary to examine the dam yearly and how much the pond has to be drawn down.

The Rothchild property (that includes the dam) is for sale. There was discussion about obtaining a permanent easement and right of way to the dam for access by the town, public and fish and game and who would hold that easement. After much discussion about responsibility and liability, it was decided that Bob approach Roger LaRochelle of SLCS to see if he would approach the Rothchilds for a donation of a conservation easement.

Nancy mentioned the idea of putting a boat rack at the dam for members as an incentive for membership.

Nominating Committee

Judy Ruhm, Will Brown and Marty Hirsch are all stepping down from the board. New members recommended are Walter Johnson, Anne Knight, Lois Stratton and Joan Vicinus.

Dee talked to Miriam Schacter and Benji Gamble about being board members and although very interested, they would not be able to attend Saturday meetings. Bob will explore the idea of having an evening meeting however the Annual Meeting would have to be on a Saturday.

Slate of officers: Bob will remain as chair with Kevin as vice-chair and Dee as secretary. Bob will approach Walter Johnson about possibly being the treasurer.

Since we are in default of the by-laws because of longevity of officers and members, Bob is recommending making changes to the by-laws. He will draft the changes and send out to board members prior to the annual meeting. He requests that comments be sent to him – silence will imply consent.

Annual Meeting

Date: July 16th, 2016

Location: Holderness Historical Society

Time: 8:30 am – setup and social time

9:00 am – meeting

11:30 am – pot luck

Guest Speaker: It was suggested that Kevin Coburn and Mike Capone attend to discuss the dam. All agreed that since the dam is such a heated topic, we forgo that as part of this year's Annual Meeting. Mike Capone will be invited to attend as the new Town Administrator to discuss his role. It was suggested that perhaps next year we invite another lake organization such as Lake Waukegan to talk about their efforts and goals.

Final Board Meeting

Date: August 27th, 2016

Time: 9:30 am

Location: Home of Bob Maloney

Additional Business

Loon update – Anne Knight reported that 2 new babies were spotted Friday, June 25th. Bob did notify the Loon Preservation Committee. The Committee will be coming out to WOP to band the adult loons and asked if a board member would like to accompany them. Galen volunteered.

John Cooley suggested putting a permanent nesting raft out for the loons and although it was not necessary this year, it may be in the future so it was agreed to move ahead with a raft.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores Hopper, Secretary